



# LA VOZ

Newsletter of the National Organization of Professional Hispanic  
Natural Resources Conservation Service Employees

February 2002

## President's Message

### Inside this issue:

Membership  
Dues Reminder

Member Pitches  
In

Fort Worth  
Livestock Show

Election Process

Award  
Nomination  
Form

2002 Scholarship  
Application Form

West Region  
News

With the Holiday Season behind us, we look forward to the annual training conference, June 24-28, 2002, in Ft. Worth, Texas. The conference planning team is working to ensure that the conference builds on the success of the previous conferences. I would like to say thank you planning team members for your volunteer contributions to conservation! The year 2002 will mark the tenth anniversary of NOPHNRCSSE's existence. A decade of conservation contributions to the Natural Resources Conservation Service and U.S. Depart-

ment of Agriculture. NOPHNRCSSE through its members have contributed by volunteering their time and efforts to assist NRCS carry out its mission. We are committed to promoting the concept that recognizes the interdependence of people and the environment. This newsletter will focus on the planning teams whose plans include participation and interaction with members of the NOPHNRCSSE who are current with their dues. For those members who have not paid their dues, please make your payment to the

membership committee chair.

Information on the conference and related activities will be posted on the website, [www.nhq.nrcs.usda.gov/HISPANIC](http://www.nhq.nrcs.usda.gov/HISPANIC)

Once again, I want to express my deep appreciation to the planning committee and others who have and continue to volunteer their time and efforts to support conservation on private lands.

**Rafael Guerrero,**  
President, NOPHNRCSSE

## Renew Your Membership by February 28

*Submitted by Sonny Vela, membership committee chairperson*

Hello everyone. This small note should serve as a reminder that 2002 Membership dues are now being accepted. Payment of your membership dues is important for NOPHNRCSSE to continue to exist as an organization. Payment of dues will allow you to vote, run for office, and will allow you to be considered as a member in good standing.

I will be sending via e-mail an Excel spreadsheet to current members with valid e-mail addresses. This will be the 2002 membership form that is required for membership in NOPHNRCSSE. You can even find the necessary form to initiate automatic payroll deduction. This spreadsheet should also be available on-line from the NOPHNRCSSE homepage soon.

Please send the completed form(s) and payment

to me at the address listed on the Membership Form. As a reminder, you are prohibited from using government franked envelopes and/or government postage when sending your information and payment to me.

If you have questions or would like more information, don't hesitate to contact **Sonny Vela** at [sonny.vela@tx.usda.gov](mailto:sonny.vela@tx.usda.gov) or (915) 837-5864 extension #3.



## At Age 8, He Learned the Value of Pitching In

By CHRIS NEELY, Fort Worth Star-Telegram Staff Writer

**David Vasquez** says helping his father build baseball diamonds for neighborhood children taught him the importance of community involvement. "Hello, and thanks for coming."

The sentiment is simple, but David Vasquez, a greeter at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church in Keller, said there is none more important. "A lot of times, people show up and don't get welcomed, so they don't feel welcome," said Vasquez, 46. "My goal is to make everyone feel at home. It's a family thing, and my family is the world."

He said he has seen the good that comes with giving others a place where they feel welcome. Vasquez learned that lesson as a boy when he worked beside his father building baseball diamonds for neighborhood children. But it was not until what he calls The Day of the Passing Cloud that he understood the meaning behind the effort, Vasquez said. Beginning at age 8, Vasquez helped his father, Ciquio Vasquez, build several baseball diamonds in Fort Worth. The two borrowed undeveloped land, then moved the backstops and fences when builders came.

"My dad and I literally put the fence and backstops together. My dad was

the one doing it, but I was there bringing him screwdrivers," David Vasquez said. The work was enjoyable, he said. But when a storm front darkened the sky on opening day in 1976, Vasquez and a friend who was helping were ready to pack it in.

His father worked on.

"We were going to have our first game that day, but the fields weren't quite ready yet," David Vasquez said. "My friend said, 'Hey, it's raining. We're not going to have the games.' But my dad said, 'No, it's just a passing cloud.' So we kept working."

As the rain worsened, the three smoothed the diamonds and threw tarps over the infields. Their clothes were soaked, but Ciquio Vasquez greeted any suggestion of stopping with "It's just a passing cloud."

"Well, it was much more than a passing cloud," David Vasquez said. "But we kept working and, eventually, we played. That's my dad. That's the direction he gave me. I learned the importance of the work ethic that day and the pride in getting something done. He loved that the kids were going to benefit from it, and nothing was going to stop him."

"To this day, my friend still talks about that passing cloud," he said.

As an adult, Vasquez, a cartographer for the U.S. Department of Agriculture,

no longer builds baseball fields. But he understands the importance of fulfilling commitments and creating environments where people, especially children, feel welcome.

Vasquez, his wife, Maria Antonia, and their children help at the church and at schools, hoping to pick up slack left by less-involved parents.

"We're one of those houses where everybody shows up. My wife loves to make tortillas, and it's not unusual to see blacks and Asians flipping tortillas in my kitchen," he said. "I'm a strong believer that it takes a village to raise a child, and if they have a problem, they know that our door is open."

Vasquez's other activities include a lifetime membership in the Keller school district PTA and past and present service on city and school committees.

Whether at his home in the Summerfields neighborhood of Fort Worth, in the community or at the church, Vasquez has a way of opening doors, said the Rev. John Gremmels, pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church.

"David is just very self-giving," he said. "Every Sunday, he comes in before God wakes up and opens the place up, makes coffee for everybody, unlocks all the doors, welcomes

(Continued on page 3)

David Vasquez is a Cartographic Technician with the NRCS National Cartography and Geospatial Center, Fort Worth, Texas, distinguished NOPHNRCSE member.

"David is a man who delivers results," said Rafael Guerrero, NOPHNRCSE President



## International Committee of the Fort Worth Livestock Show

*Submitted by Javier Ruiz*

On Saturday, January 12, 2002, the Partnership Committee in cooperation with the International Committee of the Ft. Worth Stock Show and the Ft. Worth Convention and Visitors Bureau conducted a conservation farm and ranch event. The day started off with a conservation seminar at the stock show that included a presentation on the history of conservation on private lands in the United States. Other conservation topics included technical assistance to landowners and

positive results of conservation on private lands. Participants included a group of ranchers from Mexico who were attending the stock show as guests of the Texas Department of Agriculture.

Saturday afternoon the group visited the Buzzard Hollow Ranch to look at the restoration through conservation practices planned and applied through technical assistance.

The conservation event provided the group with a good understanding of the conservation partnership between Federal, state,

local units of governments and the role of private landowners.

NOPHNRCSE members participating included **Alfonso Leal, Javier Ruiz,** and **Rafael Guerrero.** One earth team volunteer also participated, Tim Buob.

The event provided NOPHNRCSE with an excellent opportunity to promote conservation on private lands and establish partnerships with the International Committee of the Ft. Worth Stock Show and the Ft. Worth Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Members shall be in good standing status in order to participate in the 2002 election process.

## Get Ready to Cast Your Ballot

*Submitted by Martin S. Pena, nominations and election chairperson*

### 2002 ELECTION TIMETABLE

March 6, 2002	**Mail-out for Nominations, Procedures and Positions.
March 20, 2002	Deadline for Nominations.
April 3, 2002	Mail-out of Election Ballots.
April 17, 2002	Deadline for Election Ballots.
April 22, 2002	*Mail-out of Runoff Ballots.
April 26, 2002	*Deadline for Runoff Ballots.

\*Mailout will take place only in the event of a runoff.

\*\*Will be E-mailed to only the members that have paid and are in good standing.

All officers and regional representatives will be elected for two-year terms. The office of President, Executive Vice President, and Secretary will be elected by all members in good standing. Regional Representatives from the Caribbean Area, Midwest, Northeast, and Northern Plains will be elected by the membership of the region represented.

Members submitting nomination(s) should be in good standing. Nominees accepting nominations should be members in good standing. Members shall be in good standing status in order to vote in the election process.

CUT-OFF DATE FOR GOOD STANDING STATUS IS  
FEBRUARY 28, 2002.

## The of Value of Pitching In, Cont.

everybody, and he helps all morning, always a smile on his face. He really doesn't talk about it. He just does it."

The importance of small gestures of kindness is what Vasquez hopes that his children will learn from him, just as he learned it from his father, who still lives in Fort Worth.

"They see what is happening," he said. "People tell them stories about me and my dad, and sometimes they get bored with them. But it's like a friend of mine said to me the other day. He said, 'When I was 14, I thought my dad was the dumbest guy in the world. Then I had my first kid, and I realized my dad was a genius.' "



# Award Nominations Sought

Dear NOPHNCSE Member:

The Awards Team is soliciting your nominations for Awards recipients. We feel that there are employees in our agency and organization who contribute far beyond the call of duty. This is an excellent opportunity to voice your appreciation and nominate them for an Award. Enclosed are the guidelines, categories and a nomination form. Please be prompt and send them to **Erasmio Montemayor** by April 15, 2002.

Thank You,  
The Awards Committee

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## 2002 NOPHNCSE AWARD NOMINATION FORM

due April 15, 2002

Please check the appropriate category: (one category per nomination)

Remember,  
Award  
Nominations are  
due by April 15,  
2002

\_\_\_\_ Visionary

\_\_\_\_ Leadership

\_\_\_\_ Hispanic Community

\_\_\_\_ Natural Resources Conservation

\_\_\_\_ Amiga/Amigo

\_\_\_\_ Outstanding Member

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Nominee Information

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

2002 Dues Paid: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

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Why this person should be considered for this Award:

(Form continued on page 5)



NOPHNRCSE Participation and Support:

NRCS Responsibilities and Contributions:

There are employees in our agency and organization who contribute far beyond the call of duty. This is an excellent opportunity to voice your appreciation and nominate them for an award.

Other Additional Information:

NOTE: Limit one nomination per form only! Nomination application must be fully completed to be considered.

Nominated  
by: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to: **Erasmus Montemayor**, 1700 North Smith, Hebbronville, Texas 78361 or email to [Erasmus.Montemayor@tx.usda.gov](mailto:Erasmus.Montemayor@tx.usda.gov) by April 15, 2002.



# NOPHNRCSE Award Categories

## Leadership

The NOPHNRCSE Leadership Award recognizes the accomplishments of proactive and motivated men and women who are active members in the Hispanic Community. The award especially recognizes their participation in and support of NOPHNRCSE in addition to their contributions in their profession and Hispanic Communities. This Award is given in tribute to the forerunners and pacesetters of the organization whose dedication and leadership resulted in the founding of the organization. Only one Award will be presented each year.

## Visionary

The NOPHNRCSE Visionary Award recognizes the accomplishments of forward looking and innovative men and women who are active members in the Hispanic Community. The Award especially recognizes their participation in and support of NOPHNRCSE in addition to their contributions to their profession and Hispanic Community. This Award is given in tribute to pioneers of the organization whose hard work and vision resulted in the founding of the organization. Only one Award will be presented each year.

## Award of Excellence in Natural Resources Conservation

The NOPHNRCSE Award of Excellence is designed to recognize individuals who, over a period of time, have contributed substantially and creatively to our Natural Resources Conservation profession. The recipient should exemplify excellence in a particular discipline and, possibly, in multi-discipline efforts that promotes excellence and creativity. The recipient also should demonstrate leadership and involvement in NOPHNRCSE. Awards of Excellence should not be given to members currently serving on the National Council or be a current chair of a standing committee. The Awards Team will decide the number of Award (s) presented each year.

## Award of Excellence in Hispanic Community Outreach

The NOPHNRCSE Award of Excellence is designed to recognize individuals who, over a period of time have contributed substantially and creatively to Hispanic Communities. The recipient should exemplify excellence in a particular discipline and, possibly, in multi-discipline efforts that promotes excellence and creativity. The recipient also should demonstrate leadership and involvement in NOPHNRCSE. Awards of Excellence should not be given to members currently serving on the National Council or be a current chair of a standing or ad hoc committee. The Awards Team will decide the number of Award(s) presented each year.

## Outstanding Member Award

The NOPHNRCSE Outstanding Member Award is the highest recognition given by the members, themselves, to one of its members. The purpose of this Award is to recognize excellence in professionalism and leadership as a NOPHNRCSE member. It is based on achievements in NOPHNRCSE over an extended period of years and on participation and support of its mission. Only one Award will be presented each year.

## Amiga/Amigo Award

The NOPHNRCSE Amiga/Amigo Award recognizes the activities of an individual(s) or organization, which have substantially contributed towards the improvement of the Organization and/or Hispanic Community at large, in regards to visibility, information dissemination and program accessibility. The recipient(s) should demonstrate an involvement with the Hispanic Community and by actions show support of NOPHNRCSE's vision and mission. Only one award will be presented each year.

NOPHNRCSE  
Award  
Categories:

Leadership

Visionary

Award of  
Excellence in  
Natural  
Resources  
Conservation

Award of  
Excellence in  
Hispanic  
Community  
Outreach

Outstanding  
Member Award

Amiga/Amigo  
Award



## NOPHNRCSE Guidelines for Award Nominations

1. Nominee must be an ACTIVE member in their Hispanic Community.

2. Nominee must have at least one year's membership in NOPHNRCSE.

3. Nominee may nominate him/herself.

4. No person should be named an Award recipient for more than one Award in the same year.

5. Awards Team will be responsible for promoting availability of awards, soliciting and screening

Nominations and presenting awards at Annual Conference. They will also be the Judging Panel and have established a process for selecting the best-qualified nominations. Judging of all nominations will be completed by May 1, 2002.

6. Awards Team may reject any nomination of candidates that do not meet expected standards of documented performance.

7. Runner-up nominees are not considered auto-

matic candidates in subsequent years. New nominations need to be submitted each year.

8. Nomination shall be made by submitting a complete nomination form to the Awards Team no later than April 15, 2002

9. Selection, acquisition and engraving of appropriate Awards or certificate is a function of Awards Team in collaboration with the Conference Planning Work Group.

Take Me Out to the Ballpark — in Arlington, that is.

If interested in attending the Texas Ranger vs. Anaheim Angels baseball game following conference activities, contact David Vasquez at [dvasquez@ftw.nrcs.usda.gov](mailto:dvasquez@ftw.nrcs.usda.gov) or (817) 509-3450.

### After (Conference) Hours Activity

#### Texas Rangers vs. Anaheim Angels

We are trying to find out if there is interest in attending the Texas Ranger vs. the Anaheim Angels baseball game on Wednesday evening June 26, 2002.

Estimated ticket price, including transportation from the Fort Worth Holiday Inn South, will be \$20.00. (Upper Box seats). It could be less depending on the number of people attending.

Those interested in attending please email or call **David Vasquez** [dvasquez@ftw.nrcs.usda.gov](mailto:dvasquez@ftw.nrcs.usda.gov) Phone: (817) 509-3450

### West Region News

**Ray Sisneros** has resigned his position as West Regional Representative. He has accepted a position in Pecos, Texas as an RC&D Coordinator. We wish Ray well in his new endeavor.

NOPHNRCSE President, Rafael Guerrero, in accordance with the by-laws will appoint, with the approval of the national council, a replacement officer to serve the duration of Ray's unexpired term.



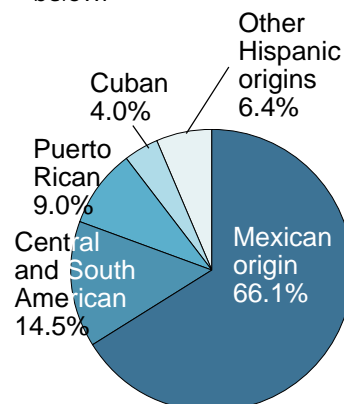
### Hispanic Population in the United States

*according to the 2000 Census*

Approximately one in eight people in the United States is of Hispanic origin.

In 2000, 32.8 million Latinos resided in the U.S., representing 12 percent of the total U.S. population (Puerto Rico was not included in the current population survey.)

The different origins of of the Hispanic population are outlined in the graph below.





## 2002 Scholarship Application

due April 30, 2002

The National Organization of Professional Hispanic Natural Resources Conservation Service Employees (NOPHNRCSE) provides scholarships to deserving Hispanic students who wish to pursue or are pursuing a Bachelor's degree in a natural resources or a natural resources conservation related field of study at an accredited four-year institution.

Please complete this application (print legibly) and submit it with all of the items requested to **Mario A. Morales**, Chairman; NOPHNRCSE Scholarship and Endowment Fund Committee; P.O. Box 4613; Las Cruces, NM 88003. Complete application package must be postmarked by April 30, 2002. Incomplete or late applications will not be evaluated.

Scholarship  
applications are  
due by April 30,  
2002.

Circle one: Mr. Mrs. Miss Ms.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

(if different from above) \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date (Mo./Day/Yr.): \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Place (State and Country): \_\_\_\_\_

Name and address of High School or  
College you are currently attending: \_\_\_\_\_

GPA (on a 4.0 scale): \_\_\_\_\_ U.S. Citizenship: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

*Note: Your scholarship application will not be processed without proof of U.S. Citizenship.*

Name of the college, organization or person from which you received this application.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ SS #: \_\_\_\_\_

(Additional scholarship application information is continued on page 9)





## Scholarship Application Information, Cont.

The following items must be submitted along with this signed application form. Failure to submit a complete 2002 NOPHNCSE Scholarship Application package will result in you forfeiting any opportunity to be selected for a 2002 NOPHNCSE Scholarship.

The following items constitute a complete 2002 NOPHNCSE Scholarship Application package:

- Submit this completed application with your signature;
- Submit a personal statement of 350 to 500 words in length (double-spaced). Please include information such as personal background, name of school(s) you plan to attend, personal and career goals, and extra curricular activities. You may also include other information that you feel is important (*remember not to exceed 500 words*);
- Submit a copy of an official or certified high school or college transcript;
- Submit two letters of recommendation from a High School teacher(s)/ counselor(s) or College professor(s); and Proof of U.S. citizenship (copy of Birth Certificate or Naturalization Certificate).

Share the information about this great scholarship opportunity with friends, family, and colleagues.

*\*\*Note: Receipt of a 2002 NOPHNCSE Scholarship does not constitute a guarantee of future employment with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service or any other federal agency.\*\**

**Certification:** I certify that all of the information provided is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. Purposely providing false information may result in the recall of any scholarship granted or in the forfeiture of any scholarship awarded.

I am aware that any scholarship awarded by NOPHNCSE will be disbursed through my University Financial Aid Office. If I am selected to receive a NOPHNCSE Scholarship, I will utilize the NOPHNCSE award toward expenses related to my college attendance. Also, I understand that if I receive an award, there is no guarantee of renewal. I must reapply for a new scholarship each year.

I understand that proof of college enrollment will be required if selected and that I must notify my University Financial Aid Office and NOPHNCSE of any changes to my enrollment status. I further understand that changes to my enrollment status may result in the cancellation of any award provided. I hereby acknowledge that it is my responsibility to keep my institution's Financial Aid Office and NOPHNCSE informed of all address changes.

I acknowledge that it is my responsibility to submit a complete application package to NOPHNCSE in compliance with the posted deadline. Incomplete or late application materials will result in my scholarship application package not being considered for any award. All application materials become the property of NOPHNCSE. I hereby give NOPHNCSE permission to share this information for the purpose of recruitment, public relations, or possible employment.

I hereby certify that I have read the Application Information and guidelines, as well as this Certification, and that I understand and accept all of the conditions specified. Failure to sign this Certification will result in my ineligibility for this Scholarship Award.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## **National Organization of Professional Hispanic Natural Resources Conservation Service Employees Scholarship Program**

### **2002 Information and Guidelines**

The United States Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) was first organized in 1933 as the Soil Erosion Service and was later known as the Soil Conservation Service. In 1994, USDA went through reorganization and the Agency's name became the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The Agency's purpose has always been, and continues to be, the promotion of the conservation and wise use of our country's natural resources. USDA-NRCS employees possess backgrounds in a variety of disciplines that include - agronomy, agricultural engineering, animal science, civil engineering, computer science, crops science, hydrology, range science, soil science, wildlife science, and several other disciplines.

NRCS accomplishes its conservation goals by drawing upon the various sciences and conservation disciplines to help private landowners conserve their soil, natural resources and water resources. NRCS employees and private landusers assess the land's capabilities and resources along with the existing conservation problems and opportunities. NRCS employees then work closely with agricultural producers and landowners to assist them in developing conservation plans and with the implementation of conservation practices while achieving their production goals and objectives. Through the implementation of conservation practices, the overall quality of life within a watershed and across our country is improved.

The National Organization of Professional Hispanic Natural Resources Conservation Service Employees (NOPHNRCSE) was established as a Professional Society of Natural Resources Conservation Service employees. NOPHNRCSE promotes the belief that Hispanics can and should fill an existing, invaluable void in the protection of our country's natural resources and the wise use of our agricultural and recreational private lands. NOPHNRCSE was created to assist the USDA-NRCS with its delivery of Program Information and Program Benefits to minority and non-minority communities; to showcase the value that Hispanics bring to the USDA-NRCS; to demonstrate the role of Hispanics in a diverse, multi-cultural workforce; and to serve as a strong link between the USDA-NRCS and the Hispanic community.

USDA-NRCS has recognized the fact that Hispanics are the most under-represented group within the Agency. The USDA-NRCS leadership also recognizes the fact that Hispanics are the fastest growing segment of the U.S. population and that many of today's agricultural producers come from Hispanic backgrounds. NOPHNRCSE was organized to augment the outreach programs of USDA and NRCS, and to improve and enhance USDA Program Delivery. Internally, NOPHNRCSE has vowed to assist USDA-NRCS achieve a multicultural workforce and to assist with the recruitment and professional development of quality Natural Resources Conservation Service Hispanic employees.

**NOPHNRCSE has vowed to assist USDA-NRCS achieve a multicultural workforce and to assist with the recruitment and professional development of quality Natural Resources Conservation Service Hispanic employees.**

(Scholarship Information and Guidelines continued on page 11)



## 2002 Scholarship Information and Guidelines, Cont.

**NOPHNCSE wishes to provide scholarships to deserving students who wish to pursue, are currently enrolled in, or are admitted to an accredited four year institution with the intent of earning a Bachelor of Science degree in a natural resources field or a natural resources conservation related field of study.**

USDA-NRCS and NOPHNCSE recognizes that Hispanics face a daunting educational challenge and that Hispanics continue to be severely under-represented in our nation's colleges and universities. Hispanics also continue to be under-represented in the natural resources and natural resources conservation field of study. With this Scholarship Program, NOPHNCSE achieves one of its founding goals, "to develop and establish a NOPHNCSE Scholarship & Endowment Fund." NOPHNCSE intends to support Hispanic goals of higher education and to encourage Hispanics to become protectors of our country's natural resources through this Scholarship and Endowment Fund Program.

NOPHNCSE wishes to provide scholarships to deserving students who wish to pursue, are currently enrolled in, or are admitted to an accredited four year institution with the intent of earning a Bachelor of Science degree in a natural resources field or a natural resources conservation related field of study.

Candidates selected to receive the 2002 NOPHNCSE Scholarship will be selected on the basis of academic achievement, personal strengths, demonstrated leadership abilities, and career goals. NOPHNCSE awarded three \$600.00 Scholarships in 1999, three \$700.00 Scholarships in 2000 and three \$700.00 Scholarships 2001. We have not determined the award amounts for the 2002 Scholarships but they should be in line with our previous year's awards. Note: this is the fourth year of our Scholarship Program. NOPHNCSE will accept Scholarship Applications from March 1 to April 30, 2002. The NOPHNCSE Scholarship & Endowment Fund Committee will determine the 2002 NOPHNCSE scholarship recipients utilizing an established selection criterion. Each applicant will be evaluated on the basis of their complete Scholarship Application package that must include the five items requested below. The NOPHNCSE Scholarship and Endowment Fund Committee is organized and administered by the NOPHNCSE National Council.

### **Required Scholarship Applicant Information**

In order for NOPHNCSE to consider any Scholarship application, the prospective candidates must submit all of the following information:

- 1) A completed and signed 2002 NOPHNCSE Scholarship Application Form;
- 2) A Personal Statement of 350 to 500 words in length, double spaced which should include information about the applicant's background, the name(s) of school(s) you plan to attend, extra curricular activities, career ambitions and goals, personal goals, hardships overcome, and any other information that the applicant feels relevant (remember the 500 word limit);
- 3) A copy of an official or certified high school transcript(s) if applicant is a high school student or a copy of an official or certified college transcript(s) if applicant is a college student;
- 4) Two letters of recommendation from a High School teacher(s)/counselor(s) or College professors; and
- 5) Provide proof of U. S. Citizenship (copy of Birth Certificate or Naturalization Certificate).

Please submit all of the items listed above to Mario A. Morales, Chairman; NOPHNCSE Scholarship & Endowment Fund Committee; P.O. Box 4613; Las Cruces, NM 88003. All items must be postmarked by April 30th, 2002. To learn more about NOPHNCSE or USDA-NRCS please explore our web pages at <http://www.nhq.nrcs.usda.gov/HISPANIC> or <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>, respectively.